(a) the details of beneficiaries belonging to minorities in Andhra Pradesh under the merit-cum-means scholarship for professional and technical courses at Under Graduate and Post Graduate levels, Pre- Matric Scholarship and Post-Matric Scholarship, during the last five years, yearwise and district-wise; and

(b) how the above scholarships are helping to rapidly increase education among minorities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) The merit-cum-means scholarship scheme for technical and professional courses and the post matric scholarship scheme for students belonging to the minority communities were launched in the year 2007-08. The pre-matric scholarship scheme has been launched in 2008-09. 889 scholarships were awarded under the merit-cum-means scholarship scheme and 2070 under the post matric scholarship scheme in 2007-08 to students belonging to Andhra Pradesh. The details of beneficiaries for the year 2007-08 in Andhra Pradesh are available on the website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

In 2008-09, 16027 scholarships have been sanctioned to students in Andhra Pradesh under the pre-matric scholarship scheme.

(b) The schemes have just been started and their impact can be evaluated only after two to three years of implementation.

Assaults on a minority community in Orissa

248 SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many citizens from a minority community were assaulted in Orissa, recently;

(b) if so, whether any steps had been taken to get and grant justice to the above people;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the number of people affected due to assault and atrocities in Orissa during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(d) whether there is any delay in providing justice to the affected people; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the Ministry of Home Affairs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assault on priests and nun belonging to a minority community

249. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the report of atrocities and criminal assault on priests and nuns belonging to a minority community in Orissa, Karnataka and Kerala; in the month of September, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of people affected by the atrocities and the number of people against whom action had been taken for the atrocities as on date, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of the action taken in each of the above cases;

(d) whether there is any delay in initiating action in the above incidents; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the Ministry of Home Affairs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Small hydro power projects

250. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether, out of 618 on-going small hydro power projects, only 140 projects are through private investment;

(b) whether the reluctance of the private investors to set up small hydro projects is due to State bureaucratic delays and delays in environmental clearances; and

(c) whether the Centre has asked the States with small hydro power potential, to streamline the clearance process to secure more investments from private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) So far 628 small hydro power (SHP) projects with an aggregate capacity of 2221 MW have been set up (as on 30.9.2008), of which 152 SHP projects aggregating 723.65 MW have been set up through private investment. During 10th Plan, out of a capacity addition of 537 MW from SHP projects, 336 MW have been set by the private sector.

(b) and (c) 23 States have announced policy for private sector participation in SHP projects. The response of private sector has been quite good. The procedures of allotment of sites and other statutory clearances including environment take some time in the State Governments. The Ministry has been pursuing the States to expedite the process in order to avoid delays.

Village electrification through solar electricity

251. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to provide solar electricity to all the remote villages in the country, under Remote Village Electrification Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of such remote villages identified in the country, particularly in Rajasthan;